

indicated, if at some time we get on a jobs bill, we will have—as I have indicated, I appreciate the comments of a number of people in the press today. Specifically, I direct myself to Mr. JOHN CORNYN, the junior Senator from Texas. He and I have not always seen the same picture on legislative matters, but I thought his statements in the press were very constructive. He, in effect, said he would hope we could get on legislation and work on it the way we used to and that would be to have some agreement on how we move forward with amendments. The Republican leader and I are trying to do that.

UPCOMING VOTES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this evening, the Senate will vote on legislation to end the unfair practice of currency manipulation by the Chinese Government. It is pretty clear by now that China undervalues its currency to give its own exports an unwarranted advantage in the global marketplace. This costs American jobs—lots of them. It costs lots of jobs by unjustly tilting the playing field against American manufacturers.

America's trade deficit with China has ballooned from \$10 billion in 1990 to \$273 billion today. It has cost 3 million American jobs already. Two million of those lost jobs came from the manufacturing sector.

American businesses do not need special advantages to compete. They just need an even playing field.

Tonight we have the opportunity to stop China from continuing to cheat American workers, pump \$300 billion into our economy, and support 1.6 million Americans jobs.

This legislation has twice advanced in this Chamber with bipartisan supermajorities. Thirty-one Republicans voted to move this legislation to the Senate floor early last week. I urge each of them to stand firm in their support for this job-creating legislation—to stand with American workers rather than siding with China. I remind my Republican colleagues that those who revoke support of this important measure for the sake of partisan politics must answer, first of all, as we all do, to our constituents.

Today, the Senate will vote to proceed to the American Jobs Act, President Obama's plan to put Americans to work without adding a penny to the deficit. This legislation will also ask the richest Americans to contribute their fair share to get our economy back on track.

The President's plan will put construction crews back to work building the things that make our country stronger—roads, bridges, dams, sewers, water systems, and up-to-date schools where our children can get the best education possible.

There are schools in our country that are not wired for the Internet. The average school in America is a little more than 50 years old. Technology has

changed a lot since those schools were constructed, but, sadly, our schools have not. This work is essential, and Americans are desperate for jobs it will create.

The American Jobs Act would also extend unemployment insurance for Americans who are still struggling to find work. Economists agree this boosts the economy because the long-term unemployed spend the money immediately on groceries, gas, and rent.

This legislation would cut taxes for middle-class families and businesses—something Republicans have long supported. The President's plan contains many ideas that Republicans have supported consistently over the years, especially when their party controlled Congress or the White House or both. Republicans oppose those ideas now, I guess, because they have a proven track record of creating jobs—all these programs—but I guess Republicans think if the economy improves, it might help President Obama. So they root for the economy to fail and oppose every effort to improve it, and they resist anything the President proposes, no matter its common sense, including this jobs plan to create 2 million jobs, containing many of the issues the Republicans have supported many times.

Americans have demanded Congress pass legislation to create jobs—and pass it now. Americans support our plan to fund job creation by asking people who make more than \$1 million a year to contribute their fair share by a margin of 3 to 1. That is 75 percent. Mainstream Americans agree we cannot ask seniors and the middle class to go on shouldering the heaviest burden.

Today we will see whether Republicans have gotten the message or if they still put the wants of millionaires and billionaires ahead of the needs of seniors and middle-class families. The American people demand that the Republicans finally admit that putting America back to work will require shared sacrifice—especially from those who can best afford to be part of the solution.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

JOBS VOTE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, a little later today, the Senate will vote on President Obama's second attempt

to address our Nation's ongoing jobs crisis with a stimulus bill, and Republicans actually welcome the opportunity. If voting against another stimulus is the only way we can get Democrats in Washington to finally abandon this failed approach to job creation, then so be it.

The President has been calling for this vote for weeks, and, in my view, we cannot have it soon enough. In fact, on the previous bill, I kept trying to get a vote on the President's first version of the stimulus bill. We will be voting on the second sort of modified version of the stimulus bill this afternoon. This is a vote Republicans are anxious to have.

For nearly 5 years, Democrats have controlled the Senate. For the last 3 of those years, they have also controlled the White House. By proposing a second stimulus, Democrats are showing the American people they have no new ideas for dealing with our jobs crisis.

Today's vote is conclusive proof that Democrats' sole proposal is to keep doing what has not worked—along with a massive tax hike we know will not create jobs. So it is hard to overstate the importance of this vote.

The President's first stimulus was a legislative and economic catastrophe. Nearly 3 years after passage, we are still learning about its failures and its abuses. We knew it was a bailout for States. We knew all about the absurd projects it funded. Over the past few weeks, we have also learned that the Obama administration was doing the very thing with solar companies that it once rightly criticized many others for doing on Wall Street: gambling with other people's money; the Federal Government playing venture capitalist with our tax money.

But there is only one thing we need to know about the first stimulus to oppose the second one and it is this: \$825 billion later, there are 1.7 million fewer jobs in this country than there were when the first stimulus was signed. That is the clearest proof it was a monstrous failure, and it is the surest proof we have that those who support the second stimulus are not doing so to create jobs.

As I see it, that is what today's vote boils down to. Everyone who votes for this second stimulus will have to answer a simple but important question: Why on Earth would we support an approach that we already know will not work?

Of course, the truth is most Democrats know just as well as I do that passing another stimulus and tax hike is a lousy idea, which is why the Democrats are having such a hard time convincing their colleagues to vote for it.

Here is what they have decided to do instead. Democrats have designed this bill to fail—they have designed their own bill to fail—in the hopes that anyone who votes against it will look bad for opposing a bill they mistakenly refer to as a "jobs bill."

That is not just my interpretation. The senior Senator from New York has